

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00107 091929Z

46/54

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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R 091430Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1316

AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0107

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LAST SENTENCE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJECT: PARMA BUILDING SCANDAL HITS THE FRONT PAGES WITH
ARREST OF SOCIALIST COUNCILMAN

REF: 75 FLORENCE 503 AND PREVIOUS

1. SOCIALIST EX-COUNCILMAN IN CHARGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS PAOLO ALVAU WAS ARRESTED SUNDAY MARCH 7 AS RESULT OF THE MAGISTRATE'S INVESTIGATION OF EVENTS SURROUNDING PLANNING LIMITATIONS ON LAND USE IN PARMA (REFTELS). TWO BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED IN THE FIRM WHICH PURCHASED THE LAND, ORIGINALLY LIMITED TO PUBLIC HOUSING AND THEN REZI EEEEE REZONED FOR OTHER USE, ALSO ARRESTED. THIRD BUSINESSMAN SOUGHT.

2. ALVAU WAS ACTUALLY ATTENDING NATIONAL SOCIALIST CONFERENCE IN ROME WHEN HE WAS INFORMED OF THE ARREST ORDER AND HE RETURNED TO PARMA TO RECEIVE IT. SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST GIUNTA WHICH ADMINISTERS PARMA HAD KEPT ALVAU AS MEMBER 'WITHOUT PORTFOLIO' AFTER HE RESIGNED FROM URBAN AFFAIRS WHEN FIRST CHARGES AIRED. HOWEVER ALVAU HAD QUIETLY RESIGNED FROM THE GIUNTA LAST WEEK WHEN NEWS OF THE IMPENDING ARREST FIRST BECAME KNOWN.

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3. SOCIALIST PARTY HAS NOW SUSPENDED ALVAU FROM ALL PARTY

ACTIVITIES PENDING OUTCOME OF THE CASE.

4. COMMENT: AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE OPPOSITION HAS QUICKLY CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE FRONTIST GIUNTA IN PARMA. THE SOCIALIST MAYOR RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT PRIME MINISTER MORO DID NOT RESIGN BECAUSE EX-DEFENSE MINISTER GUI WAS INVOLVED IN SCANDAL. THE PRESS WHICH HAS GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY TO THE CASE HAS INCLUDED IN SOME STORES THE SUSPICION THAT SOME OF THE PROFIT FROM THE LAND SPECULATION FOUND ITS WAY INTO SOCIALIST PROVINCIAL PARTY FUNDS. SOCIALIST PARTY CONNECTION WITH CASE ALSO REINFORCED IN PUBLIC MIND BY ONE OF BUSINESSMAN'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE PARTY. GORDON

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